

COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER DIRECTIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<u>December 14, 2005</u>
MOTOR CARRIER MATTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOCKET NO.	<u>2005-342-C</u>
UTILITIES MATTERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ORDER NO.	<u>n/a-</u>

HEARING EXAMINER: **David Butler**

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:

Application of COMTEL TELCOM ASSETS LP D/B/A VARTEC TELECOM, CLEAR CHOICE COMMUNICATIONS, EXCEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VARTEC SOLUTIONS for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Local and Interexchange Telecommunications Services, for Flexible Regulatory Treatment, Alternative Regulation, and for Authority to Acquire Certain Assets of VARTEC TELECOM, INC., EXCEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND VARTEC SOLUTIONS, INC.

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Motion to Hold Hearing by Video Conference at Garber Reporting Services

HEARING EXAMINER ACTION:

The Applicants have moved for an Order authorizing the use of videoconferencing to take the testimony of Comtel's witness located in Texas and for the hearing to be held at Garber Reporting Service in Columbia, South Carolina to accommodate this request. The Applicants allege that it would be an economic hardship for the Applicants' witness to travel to South Carolina to attend the hearing in person. The Office of Regulatory Staff does not oppose the Motion. The Motion is granted, with one modification. The Public Service Commission is in the process of obtaining equipment which would allow it to hold hearings by videoconference in its present building, located at 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. The equipment is expected to be installed and operational on or before the hearing date presently set for the hearing in this docket, which is January 9, 2006. Accordingly, the Motion to hold a hearing in this matter by videoconference is granted. However, if the equipment to hold a hearing via videoconference is available at the Public Service Commission building by January 9, 2006, the hearing will be held at the Public Service Commission building. If, however, the videoconferencing equipment is not available at the Public Service Commission by January 9, 2006, the hearing via videoconference will be held at Garber Reporting Services, as originally requested by the Applicants.